PASS CHRISTIAN, MS

The Tricentennial

Volume 1, Issue Seven June 2, 1998

TRICENTENNIAL NEWS

Your Board of Directors and Executive Committee with the Heads of Sub-committees have been meeting with much enthusiasm and diligence. The Board now meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:A.M. and the Executive Committee meets every second Wednesday at 8:A.M. Sessions are held in the Library Conference Room. Average attendance at Board meetings is 20, and 10 at Executive sessions. Officers are: Chairman Dan Ellis; Vice Chairmen: Ken Austin, John Lutenbacher and A.C. Smith; Treasurer Dayton Robinson; and Peggy Johnson Recording Secretary. Sub-Committee Chairpersons are: **Communications** - Dan Ellis (452-3138); **Education** - Tracy Gordon Goff (452-5819); **Finance** -- Dayton Robinson (452-4543); **Fund Raising** - Bob Fairbank (865-5515); **Heritage** - Virgil Harris (452-7068); **Historians** - Eaton Lang (452-4227); **Special Events** - Ken Austin (452-5820); **Merchandise** - (We're waiting for that special wonderful person!) We appreciate those of you who have been responding to our call for membership contributions of $15 or more to defray the cost of newsletters and other items. New items of merchandise which will be informative are in development. Presently, Map Set III is available for $10 donations. They can be secured from City Hall or at Valentino's.

We thank the following dues paying members:

John Harris **Virgil Harris**
Ed Jurkowski **Bob Mintz**
Jean Moreland **Dorothy Row**
Steve Saucier **Sonny Scardino**
Jean Stanbro **Thelma Pulkowski**

Come Aboard! Become A Paying Member

The first *Friends of the Library Board,* in January 1972, were: Mike Sandford, Robb Sandford, Thelma Yockey, Shawn Hyatt, Evelyn Webb, and Helen Currie.

THE FRIENDS

The Friends of the Library is considered one of the prime community organizations with wide and varied support from some 200 members. *The Friends* aid the Pass Library by raising funds through "Wine & Cheese" parties, Book Sales, and Yard Sales. Through the years, monies raised have supported the Library in the form of a $10,000 participation in building the Junior Wing. Continuing projects have provided carpeting for the Conference Room, renovations in the main building, maintenance of floral displays, and *The Friends* provide Memorial Books in remembrance of deceased fellow members. A major project for this year is painting the exterior of the Library Building.

Since its beginnings in 1972, the *"Friends of the Library"* has been a driving force in keeping the Public Library in a posture of good reading and a local lyceum for research and an infusion of supplemental education for school children and citizens of the Pass. Donations of books is an on-going need. Membership in *"The Friends"* is much more than just a social occasion. Business meetings are held every Friday at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room with a friendly ambience of coffee and pastries. Paul Bode, president, bids everyone welcome to join -- or to just "come by" and visit.

BILLY'S DREAM -- A REALITY

It was in 1987, when Billy Bourdin found out that the Pass Christian Flag was being brought back to the Coast to be stored at Beauvoir. Ever since, he has been pressing anyone and everyone who would listen, to do something to reconstitute a Pass Christian Flag. Everyone agreed that the idea was good, but it wasn't until he developed John Lutenbacher's attention and that of the Historical Society, did anything happen. John Lutenbacher led an exploration team to examine the protected flag in Beauvoir's storage facilities and had a replica made. A reproduced flag is now mounted on one of the walls of the Historical Society. This prompted Dayton Robinson to have a smaller facsimile made for the Historical Society to show on special other occasions.

With all the generated interest about the decorative former Regimental Flag, Billy had to have his own. He called upon local artist, Tazewell to make another likeness. That flag image is posted on Billy's second floor gallery overlooking Davis Avenue for all "Passians" to see.

Historic Exhibit Grows

With the "Bronze of D'Iberville", by Michelle Smith leading the way, Buddy Diboll is erecting a to-scale miniature architectural model of the site and construction of the first Lighthouse on the Coast. It was located here in Pass Christian where our City Hall is located. He has agreed to build it with the provision that ALL the "history buffs" of the Pass reach a consensus on the exact pinnings location of the Lighthouse and the Light-keepers quarters. Both the Pass Lighthouse and the one at Cat Island were constructed in 1831, which lead the way for others to be built on mainland shores and in coastal waters.

Another Happening:

The Historical Society, chaired by John Lutenbacher, had a very successful program at the Yacht Club on May 17th. With almost 200 interested history buffs in attendance, Grady Howell, author of *"To Live and Die in Dixie"*, maintained their attention during a festive dining occasion. This may prompt the interest for more joint meetings with the sister cities of Bay St. Louis and Long Beach. Jean Moreland reported that ticket sales were brisk and were sold out a week before the event. Our city's Ombudsman, Paul Bode, greeted everyone as they arrived for seating.

Dedication to C.D. Taylor

The Pass Christian Historical Society will dedicate one wall in its refurbished and recently painted headquarters building on Scenic Drive.

The formal ceremonies in honor of Dr. C.D. Taylor, one of the Society's foremost leaders, will be conducted at 7:30 p.m. on June 8, followed by a light social for members and invited guests.

VFW Salutes

Fred "Roscoe" Scarborough reigns supreme as once more he serves as Commander for Post #5931. During a packed-house ceremony and social, attended by friends, family, and guests from neighboring posts on Saturday, May 23rd. the officers for the VFW and Auxiliary were installed. Commander Roscoe singled out Marine Sergeant John Maddox as the newest member while acknowledging that the Sergeant was a POW for 31 months who escaped his imprisonment during an Allied bombing raid.

VFW officers installed were: Commander Fred Scarborough, Sr.; Vice Commander Nita Favre; Jr. Vice Commander John Mays; Quarter Master Jimmy Morgan; Chaplain Mike Biss; S. Adjutant Baxter Jones; and Surgeon Al Adams. Auxiliary officers: President Sheila Ladner; Sr. Vice President Dee Dee Perkins; Jr. Vice President Lupe DeDeaux; Treasurer Denise Scarborough; Conductress Nita Scarborough; Chaplain Julia Cerra; Guard Clara Sydow; Patriotic Instructor Anne Latino; Secretary Audrey Morgan; and Trustees: Edith Tabor, Catherine Martin and Betty Bates.

FOREMOST, A LIBRARY

First. there was the *"Town Library"*, which was the first established library along the Coast between Mobile and New Orleans. It was organized on February 21, 1893 by the "Ladies of the Town Library Association". Its president, Miss Isabelle Bowman Finley, conducted the opening ceremonies. The City of Bay St. Louis followed suit with its "Library" on August 8, 1893.

The *Town Library's* quaint cottage at 221 East Scenic Drive, was purchased in 1905 and operated from there for more than 90 years, but closed its doors following the demise of its devoted librarian, Miss Catherine James. Most of the books on its shelves had been donated over the years by local citizenry. Many original publications are languishing there, including the *Writings of George Washington* and the *Writings of Thomas Jefferson.*

In 1967, there was an attempt to get county, state and federal monies to support and expand the *Town Library,* but because of its status as a private concern, the opening discussions led to the realization of a Public Library Board. Deliberations continued for several years, which were further postponed by disruptive Camille.

In July 1971, the present site was dedicated after an award confirmation by utilizing *"We Care"* hurricane funds. Ground breaking ceremonies at Hiern Street finally took place in 1972, with a formal dedication the following year on June 24, 1973.

City officials also provided $16,000 of city funding represented by Mayor John J. Wittmann, and Aldermen James Cerra, Charles Logan, Justin Courtenay, Arthur Hyatt, and Claibourne Rick, The Library Board was chaired by Thomas Bourdin, with members: Mrs. Rand Jones, Miss Marjorie Knost, Mrs. Ray Parnell McKay, and Mrs Georgette Hawthorne.

Correction

Julia Cerra called in to state that the Pass High Alma Mater was not discontinued in 1959 as indicated in Newsletter dated April 13th. The song is still sung by all students and alumni. We welcome all corrections! Through your alertness, these historical issues will present a more authentic portrayal.

PAUL BODE -- In Profile

Paul Bode was born in a *Manse* encased in a ten-foot snow-drift in Rochester, New York. His father, a minister, called for Dr. Reuter to perform the "miracle." As a retired naval Commander, Paul Bode served on the Good Ship USS Phoenix and the Good Ship USS Saratoga. He continues his command in the Pass as an activist in everything -- everywhere. As he says, "no grass grows under my feet!"

Equipped with a Master's degree in Mathematics and Physics, he worked on the Atomic Bomb project, and years later, matriculated to "peace-time" efforts as Headmaster of the Coast Episcopal School. As a Community volunteer, Paul is a Rotarian, Chamber of Commerce member, former Alderman, and Municipal Chaplain, vestryman for Trinity Church, treasurer of Long Beach Library, and has served as a consultant or advisory member to numerous commissions and projects. Not a single month passes, that the Sun Herald hasn't carried one of Paul's journalistic missals for good clean living. He is Publicity Chairman for the Tricentennial Committee and as President of the Friends of the Library, he invites everyone to attend the Library's 25th Anniversary Reception on June 24, 1998 at 5:00 p.m.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June 13, 1923 -- 75th year
Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce
June 24, 1973 -- 25th year
Pass Christian Public Library

Evolution of a Logo

During one of the first meetings of the Tricentennial Committee in October 1996, the question of an official Logo was a major topic. Since nothing was pursued, Dr. A.C. Smith penciled in a drawing and asked his wife, Michelle, to pretty it up. At another meeting, an improved quality representation was offered and passed on to Jayme Condra. She snapped the image into her computer and further enhanced it. Some things become fonder to the beholder and the Logo has been well accepted by the community.

During the April "KickOff", Michelle Smith hand colored some 50 lapel images which were personalized with the names of all the members of the Board of Directors, Officers, City Officials, and program guests. The Tricentennial Logo was further promoted -- the emblem was blazoned on T-shirts worn by the hand-picked graduating students of the classes of 1999 and 2000 who performed as color guards for the nine Flags that flew over Pass Christian since 1699. This was topped off with a huge cake baked by Tracy Gordon Goff. She adorned the Logo, *with icing upon the cake*, which, by the way, professional confectioners claimed couldn't be done.

Perhaps not the final edition, but by further metamorphosis, Jessie Heitzmann has scanned the logo into her computer and it not only rests on the Tricentennial Committee's official letterhead, but has further been colorized with details embellished.

In its inception form, A.C. Smith, a Vice-Chairman of the Tricentennial Committee, realized that the many flags covering the 300 year period from colonization through today would hide the central theme of the magnolia. Therefore, he intuitively elaborated the years of 1699-1999 by displaying embodiments of the first flag, the *Fleur de Lys*; and the last flag, our present colors of the United States.

Ye Ole Pass Christian

Jean Hardin's parents bought a home in Pass Christian at 729 E. Beach Boulevard in 1926. It became the family summer home for the five Hackett children as they romped the Mississippi Sound. Although the residence was sold in 1955, Jean still holds many happy memories of the Hackett family place.

"It's a tale of Rip Van Winkle," Jean states, as she glories in happiness for having moved back after a 20-year elapse. In 1975, she found that not much had changed inspite of Hurricane Camille.

With nostalgia in her heart, one day she began doodling while recalling glimpses of the way she remembered the Pass in 1930. By nightfall, the result was a wonderfully produced pen and ink panoramic sketch, which had unfolded before her. It was a reminder of Pass Christian as it was before Highway 90's rerouting along the beachfront. Her black on white design-work depicts the happy mood of yesteryear which Jean now shares with all of us.

She has donated her puristic pictorial to the Tricentennial Committee as a funtastic fundraiser and as a contribution to the heritage of the community. Jean is married to the Rev. Durrie B. Hardin, Rector Emeritus of Trinity Episcopal Church, Pass Christian. Our sincere gratitude is extended to Jean for her wonderful talent and meaningful gift.

Pass Hi Art Show

Sponsored by the Rotary Club and the Art Association, winners of the Highschool Art Show were: **Painting:** Coral Tagge, Christiane Hampel, and An Nguyen. **Drawing:** Bradford Cook, Daniel Vignes, and Lance Labadens. **Mixed Media:** Andrew Moffett, Jacob Davis and Jamie Lunsford. Congratulations to all the winners and to every student who submitted their art works.

D'IBERVILLE AND SAUCIER

(Second Episode of Gloria Moran's History)

In 1697, King Louis the Fourteenth, selected the French Canadian d'Iberville to head the Biloxi Bay expedition, primarily due to Iberville's successful exploits against the British at Fort Corlaer, now Schenectady, New York, and especially because d'Iberville had bested the British in the Hudson Bay area in the 1690's.

With d'Iberville in the Hudson Bay expedition was one Jean Baptiste Saucier, baptized December 4, 1673 at Quebec, Canada. Saucier was recruited by d'Iberville in July 1697, along with other soldiers and sailors, and he accompanied d'Iberville to Rochefort, France, and final preparations were eventually made for the Mississippi Valley venture. They departed Brest, France, in late October, 1698, sailed by way of Saint Domingue (Haiti), north to Spanish Florida, and west along the Gulf of Mexico shore to Pensacola where the Spanish were already in possession. The pilot of record on this first trip to our area -- the first colonizing expedition headed by d'Iberville -- was a noted buccaneer named Lawrence de Graff - not a Ladner (as often misstated).

Jean Baptiste Saucier, was the son of Louis Saucier of Canada, and the grandson of Charles Saucier of France. Jean Baptiste Saucier is the ancestor of most Gulf Coast Sauciers. Records show that he arrived at Biloxi in late 1699, and was at Mobile, in 1702. In 1704, he married a *Pelican Girl*, so-called because she arrived at Dauphin Island on the ship the *Pelican*, accompanied by 19 or 20 young women of virtue, and a chaperon directress. The young ladies were sent here to become wives for the male colonists already established here.

In 1705, a child, baptized Henry Saucier, was born to Jean Baptiste Saucier and the *Pelican Girl,* Gabrielle Savary, and in 1732 at Fort de Chartres in the Illinois country, Henry Saucier married Barbe LaCroix, daughter of Francois LaCroix and Barbe Montmeunier, a family related to the Moran family still in Canada. Some Morans were soon to appear in the records of the Illinois country, but were possibly already there in 1732.

Henry Saucier and Barbe LaCroix were back in Mobile, now Alabama, when their child Philippe was baptized in Mobile. Philippe was later to marry Marie Louise Nicaise and settle at DeLisle. Her baptism was recorded in Mobile also.

Taking the Challenge

Running short of time and help to get the last issue of the *Tricentennial Newsletter* to the postoffice brought us to Mae Parker, Director of the Senior Citizens Center on Second Street. While the ladies were up to their elbows in dust from their ceramics, Mae was agreeing to have her group of ladies volunteer to fold and affix labels to close to 900 issues to be bundled for the post-office. They finished the work in jiffy-time the next morning and went on to do their embroidery with just the least bit of interruption.

Pass Christian Road

Pass Christian Road originated as an Indian trace along the east-west southern coastal ridge. This 25-mile roadway from Pass Christian to Biloxi became the first official County road adopted by the Harrison County government. Pass Road was the first road to connect the coastal cities although no longer bearing that name in the Pass, it is fragmented in Long Beach and is still a prominent roadway through Gulfport and west Biloxi. At eastern Biloxi, it was known as Pass Christian Avenue and was later changed to Howard Avenue. In the Pass, Second Street would have been an extension of it.

Collection given to Library

Nap Cassibry, famed Historian and Author for the Gulf Coast, donated some of his Historic Collection to the Public Library in honor of its Anniversary. Some of his most regarded publications are: *"The Ladner Odyssey"*, *"Earliest Settlers and Land Grants of Biloxi"*, and *"Jeff Davis vs Heirs of Joseph Davis."* Nap has also been instrumental in supporting or contributing to many other genealogical or historical books and papers throughout his 35 years of indepth research and had collected many meaningful archival records.

Nap Cassibry descends from Jean Cassibry who settled at DeLisle and married one of Philipe Saucier's daughters.

Name Calling

Sally James, local librarian and community activist has always been a good source of information. The great thing about Sally, is that if she doesn't readily know the answer to Pass heritage, she will immediately give a reference source or refer you to another person who would be more knowledgeable about the particular issue at hand.

Not recorded anywhere is an interesting inference she made about how Pass Marianne could have derived its name. On early original French colonization maps, clearly shown are oyster reefs raised above water at low tide which appeared as three islets. The channel around the reefs or battures was first called *Passe aux huitres*, which name change came about sometime after 1745 as a result of Nicholas Ladner establishing a cow farm at Cat Island where he lived with his wife Marianne. There, they raised their many children.

Sally reasons that since *Passe aux huitres* means "Oyster Pass", and *"marennes"* is also a French word for oyster, that the original naming of the second pass, south of Pass Christian, could conceivably have been *"Passe aux Marennes"* as a precursor to the eventual name change to Pass Marianne due to word similarities. It is an interesting conjecture!

Prieur Leary

As a practicing Irishman, Prieur Leary lived happily well, both in New Orleans and in Pass Christian. His home in the Pass was located on Scenic Drive at the site of the present St. Paul Rectory. Engaged in local real estate, Leary and his wife raised five children to adulthood with one foot on the Coast and the other in "The City." In his tongue and cheek style, he wrote his memoirs, entitled *"Eggheads and Mullets"*, a sampling of which is quoted herein.

"I think that it is proper for me to comment on the English-Irish stalemate on the six counties in Northern Ireland. First of all, my forebears are from Ireland are from Ireland, which was incepted five hundred years before Christ -- on the Isle of Man. So, you can see that their heritage is old and strong. The tri-color flag denotes: Orange for the partitioned Ulster, the six counties in the North denotes the Orangeman Protestants under the British flag. Green represents the twenty-six counties called The Republic of Eire. White in the center denotes peace, to try and bring Eire and Ulster as one."

Of the Avalon Movie house he recalled.: "For no reason at all, I would start with a light giggle, then with a "stoopid laugh", then from all parts of the theater, they would start laughing at my raucous guffaws. It got so one would start and his wife and kids would laugh at him and it went on and on. On one particular Saturday, he recalled that "the outdated projector would go on the blink . . . Bob Hope was about to marry the squaw woman and all of a sudden a news clip came on with President Eisenhower taking the Presidential vow and he said "I do." Then, Hope and the Indian came back on. The theater patrons screamed."

Bridging the Future

A fundraiser for Boy Scouting was hosted at the Ramseys' home on Scenic on Friday, May 22nd. City officials attending were: Mayor Billy McDonald, Alderman-at-Large Chipper McDermott, and City Attorney Malcolm Jones. The crawfish were plentiful for everyone to enjoy while an informative program was presented by officials of the Pine Burr Area Council in which Harrison County Scouting is included.

The Artesian Oak

Pass Christian's history is filled with fascinating tales, part of which is due to the interesting folks who have come to dwell here. Right after World War I, a wealthy wholesale grocer from Illinois arrived in our City, purchased the famous John Henderson estate at the east corner of Beach and Cedar, razed the palatial mansion and replaced it with his new residence set back in a grove of oaks. He called his dwelling *Midoaks.*

He befriended the manager of the Inn-By-The-Sea at Henderson Point, and together they contrived a local hoax which received national attention.

One of the large giant oaks near the Beach had been struck by lightning which caused its trunk to split. Because there was an artesian well near to it, the men had inserted pipes through the center of the split tree-trunk from its base and concealed the pipe out along one of the out-stretched branches. When the well-water was connected to the pipe, a stream of water poured forth from the protruding limb into a waiting pond below. The phenomenon attracted so much attention that a picture of it was carried on the front page of a metropolitan newspaper proclaiming it as a spectacular sight on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Dr. Flood

Mississippi historian (Claiborne, 1880) cited Dr. Flood's Report.
New Orleans, January 25, 1811:

"Governor: In compliance with your instruction, I . . . proceeded to Mr. Simon Favre's on the eastern bank of the Pearl River. . . a planter, owns a large stock, . . . an educated and very capable gentleman. He accepted the commission with pleasure . .

I hoisted the flag of the United States, at Bay St. Louis (DeLisle), on the 8th (of February), and handed a commission to Philip Saucier, a venerable gentleman of prepossessing manners and with a patriarchal influence.

Next day displayed . . (the) flag at the Pass.

They are all along this beautiful coast, a primitive people, of mixed origin, retaining . . gaiety and politeness of the French, blended with the abstemiousness (impulsiveness) and indolence of the Indian. . . . few laws will be wanted here . . people are universally honest. There are no crimes. . . . a more innocent and inoffensive people may not be found. They seem to desire only . . simple necessities of life, and to be let alone in their tranquility. I am greatly impressed with the beauty and value of this coast.

More From "The Beacon"

In January 1948, a petition was circulated in opposition to parking meters. The basis of which was the requirement of an officer to make the hourly check and the necessity for mechanical maintenance.

In 1949, Dutsy Bourdin and Goat Wittmann built a new kind of boat for the Pass. It had an airplane motor and propeller.

COOKBOOK COMING ALIVE

julia cerra - wpa pralines
baxter jones - bacter's barbecue
We're waiting for yours!

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